the *tharavila* or ground value of a large extent of reclamations from the Vembanad lake had been brought to account in 1089, while there was no corresponding amount under this item to be included in the demand for 1090. Including the arrear demand of Rs. 98,393, the total demand for 1090 was Rs. 36,83,191, of which a sum of Rs. 35,60,061 was collected and Rs. 14,055 written off, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,09,075 for recovery at the close of the year. The collections under current demand rose from 98 to 99 per cent. The increase in the pending balance was only apparent, as the bulk of it consisted of the *tharavila* charged on puduval lands, which was allowed to be paid in subsequent years. The value of properties brought to sale was only ·1 per cent of the total collections of the year. Early in 1088, Mr. R. Mahadeva Aiyar, Dewan Peishkar, was placed on special duty to revise the forms of revenue accounts, registers and returns in the village, taluk and Division offices, and to compile a Land Revenue Manual. Revised account forms, etc., were prescribed, with the approval of the Government, and their introduction was entrusted to the Division Peishkars. The Land Revenue Manual, which consists of five volumes, has also been finished. The first three volumes which are of immediate use to the department, were printed and issued during the year, while the printing of the two remaining volumes is nearing completion. Government have placed on record their appreciation of the thorough and satisfactory manner in which Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar discharged the important special duty entrusted to him. The variations in the extent of, and the demand on, the Sirkar and Devaswom lands, since the Revenue Settlement, were carefully scrutinised and the *ayacut* demand brought up to the close of 1089. The system of levying court fees on applications for the lease, or the transfer of registry, of Kandukrishi lands, was abolished. The rate of *tharavila* on puduval lands in some of the pakuthies of the Chengannur taluk was further reduced, by way of relief to the ryots. The system of imposing prohibitory assessment on cardamom lands unauthorisedly occupied in the Devicolam Division was done away with. Recently, the *tharavila* on these cardamom lands has been allowed to be paid in six instalments, instead of four as before. The Government trust that these measures, intended to ease the burden of the ryots, will have beneficial effect.

11. **Survey.**—The operations of the Survey Department showed progress, both in miscellaneous cadastral survey and in the re-survey of the Nedumangad taluk. Most of the Tahsildars were trained both in chain and theodolite survey, and arrangements have been made for the training of the remaining Tahsildars. It has been laid down that no Tahsildar will be confirmed in his office, till he acquires an adequate knowledge of survey. The taluk survey schools were abolished and a central survey school was opened at Nedumangad for the training of village subordinates and private candidates, under the supervision of the officer in charge of the Nedumangad re-survey party.

12. **Forests.**—The total area of reserved forests at the end of the year was 2,344 square miles and 181 acres, and the total area of reserved lands, 124 square miles and 241 acres. The progress made in the work of forest settlement was slightly better than in the previous year. It is expected that all the pending cases will be disposed of before the close of 1091. The year was favourable for natural reproduction. An additional area of 307 acres of teak was newly opened, and the existing plantations covering an area of 3,487 acres were maintained. The holding of an annual Forest Conference was sanctioned and the first conference was held in the Conservator's office in 1090, at which several important questions relating to the conservation of forests and the development of forest revenue were discussed. The retail sale of timber to *bona fide* consumers at tariff rates was sanctioned. The procedure to be adopted in regard to the issue of free passes for the removal of timber from registered holdings was simplified, and applications for such passes have been exempted from the payment of court fees. The tariff rates and seigniorage on timber and other forest produce have been revised since the close of the year. The system of working down timber in the Devicolam Division on the *mel-labham* system was abolished, and certain modifications have been made in the grazing rules. Government are aware that, in the forests of the State covering nearly a third of the entire area, they have a valuable asset, whose potentialities are immense. It is satisfactory to find that the gross revenue from the department has been steadily increasing from Rs. 8,68,716 in 1088 to Rs. 13,99,720 in 1090, *i. e.*, by 61·1 per cent. Though the net revenue of

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